

Nov. 19, 1999

[H. Con. Res. 122]

BORDER PATROL—SIGNIFICANCE AND SERVICE

Whereas the Mounted Guard was assigned to the Immigration Service under the Department of Commerce and Labor from 1904 to 1924;

Whereas the founding members of this Mounted Guard included Texas Rangers, sheriffs, and deputized cowboys who patrolled the Texas frontier looking for smugglers, rustlers, and people illegally entering the United States;

Whereas following the Department of Labor Appropriation Act of May 28, 1924, the Border Patrol was established within the Bureau of Immigration, with an initial force of 450 Patrol Inspectors, a yearly budget of \$1 million, and \$1,300 yearly pay for each Patrol Inspector, with each patrolman furnishing his own horse;

Whereas changes regarding illegal immigration and increases of contraband alcohol traffic brought about the need for this young patrol force to have formal training in border enforcement;

Whereas during the Border Patrol's 75-year history, Border Patrol Agents have been deputized as United States Marshals on numerous occasions;

Whereas the Border Patrol's highly trained and motivated personnel have also assisted in controlling civil disturbances, performing National security details, aided in foreign training and assessments, and responded with security and humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of numerous natural disasters;

Whereas the present force of over 8,000 agents, located in 146 stations under 21 sectors, is responsible for protecting more than 8,000 miles of international land and water boundaries;

Whereas, with the increase in drug-smuggling operations, the Border Patrol has also been assigned additional interdiction duties, and is the primary agency responsible for drug interdiction between ports-of-entry;

Whereas Border Patrol agents have a dual role of protecting the borders and enforcing immigration laws in a fair and humane manner; and

Whereas the Border Patrol has a historic mission of firm commitment to the enforcement of immigration laws, but also one fraught with danger, as illustrated by the fact that 86 agents and pilots have lost their lives in the line of duty—6 in 1998 alone: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the historical significance of the United States Border Patrol's founding and its 75 years of service to our great Nation.

Agreed to November 19, 1999.

Nov. 19, 1999

[H. Con. Res. 141]

Celebrating Diversity in America

Whereas the United States is a nation of immigrants, whose 270,000,000 inhabitants hail from every corner of the globe;

- Whereas from Ellis Island to the Pacific coast, the United States has welcomed immigrants seeking freedom and opportunity;
- Whereas the United States democratic system of Government mandates equal protection under the law and the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens;
- Whereas the United States endured a civil war for emancipation, and in doing so, formed a permanent union and a society of equals;
- Whereas the United States has outlawed racial, ethnic, and religious bigotry to create the world's greatest multicultural society;
- Whereas the United States respects the individual and welcomes each one's participation in our democratic society;
- Whereas the United States is the preeminent land of opportunity which rewards hard work, ingenuity, and perseverance;
- Whereas the ethnic diversity of the United States has provided an abundance of energy, creativity, and prosperity;
- Whereas people in the United States recognize and reward the contributions of members from every group;
- Whereas people in the United States are working to close opportunity gaps so that all may share in the great prosperity of our Nation;
- Whereas people in the United States of all backgrounds have sacrificed their lives in war to defend the cause of freedom for people around the world; and
- Whereas people in the United States of African, Asian, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Native American backgrounds cherish and celebrate their various national, ethnic, and religious heritages: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that all people in the United States should reach out across our differences in ethnicity, race, and religion to respect each other and to celebrate, in friendship and unity, one America.

Agreed to November 19, 1999.

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE—PERMANENT BAN ON TARRIFS AND TAXES

Nov. 19, 1999
[H. Con. Res. 190]

- Whereas electronic commerce is not bound by geography and its borders are not easily discernible;
- Whereas transmissions over the Internet are made through packet-switching, making it impossible to determine with any degree of certainty the precise geographic route or endpoints of specific Internet transmissions and infeasible to separate domestic from foreign Internet transmissions;
- Whereas inconsistent and inadministrable taxes imposed on Internet activity by subnational and national governments threaten not only to subject consumers, businesses, and other users